

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** MACO Information [macopb@maco.cog.mt.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 13, 2007 8:59 AM  
**Subject:** Commissioners, Clerk & Recorders, and Treasurers

Good morning Commissioners, Clerk and Recorders and Treasurers,  
The 2007 Montana Legislature passed HB 49, requiring an interim study of special purpose districts. This study committee is different than most in that there will be non-legislative members on the committee, appointed by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Presiding Officer, based upon recommendation from MACo and the League of Cities and Towns. There will be one Commissioner, one Clerk and Recorder and one Treasurer representing counties on the committee.

The purpose of the study is to look at ways the special purpose district laws can be combined and unified to the greatest extent possible. Currently the authorizing statutes are all over the board as to how they are formed, altered, dissolved, governance, fee or assessment methods and other structural differences.

A similar undertaking was done in the early 90's resulting in what is now the unified section of statutes related to county boards. It is our hope that something similar can happen with districts.

If you are a commissioner and are interested in being considered for appointment to this committee please respond to me at [blattie@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:blattie@maco.cog.mt.us)

For the clerks and treasurers associations please determine your recommended appointees within your respective associations and let us know your preferences. I would like to request that two names be submitted. This will allow the presiding officers to balance the committee to fairly represent geographical and size differences in the overall committee makeup. Also, the appointee's term of office should be considered because it will be helpful, if not essential, that they be available during the 2009 legislative session to assist in gaining passage of any proposed legislation that the committee may recommend.

HB 49 contained an appropriation to pay for committee expenses so the committee members will be reimbursed for travel costs.

Below is the link to the bill and the language related to the committee membership.  
This will be a great opportunity to address some very real problems that counties face everyday with special purpose districts.

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Link to text of HB 49: <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2007/billpdf/HB0049.pdf>

Committee language from HB 49:

*(2) (a) The education and local government interim committee shall establish a subcommittee to conduct the study and report to the full committee. The subcommittee members must be appointed by the presiding officer of the committee. In making appointments of non- legislative members, the presiding officer shall consider recommendations from the Montana association of counties and the Montana league of cities and towns. The subcommittee must include:*

*(i) four members, two from each political party and two from each house, who are legislators appointed to the education and local government interim committee;*

*(ii) one county commissioner;*

*(iii) one county clerk and recorder;*

*(iv) one county treasurer;*

*(v) one city manager;*

*(vi) one city commissioner or town council member; and*

*(vii) one town clerk.*